

SPTH Courses for Fall/Winter 2021-2022

Please Note: Due to Covid-19, Fall courses will largely be held by zoom, so attendance on campus MAY NOT be required if all your courses are remote, **Please check**. To check if the courses you are interested in taking as on campus or over zoom, the main listing of all York courses has added the information to each course.

Go to the Website: <https://apps5qa.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm>

Select: Search by subject

Select f/w and courses in spth,

Choose one of the courses (i.e. SPTH 6695) and add it by using the catalogue number.

Below are the course offerings for fall 2021 and Winter 2022. Registration opens on July 7th. Students in SPTH can enroll in SPTH courses through the on-line system for as long as there are spots available, unless otherwise noted. Please sign into your myfile and you can enroll in the SPTH courses while there are spots in the courses you are interested in. Please note: there are limited spots in all courses, so please be sure to enroll in the courses you are interested in early, while you have lots of courses to choose from.

Students should enroll in all the SPTH courses they are interesting it, and to work towards completing the course work degree requirements. Please refer to: <http://sph.gradstudies.yorku.ca/degree-requirements/> for the SPTH degree requirements.

If you wish to enroll in courses outside of SPTH, you must submit a permission form for approval, and once there is an SPTH signature, then it goes to the program who owns the course for their approval, and then they will open a spot for you to enroll. If you wish, you can complete the form, and submit it to the program by scanned copy. The form is located at: <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/files/2014/08/course-program-other.pdf>

Please note: Many students over-enrolling in order to be sure to get into a class, but that also means there are a lot of adds and drops in the first 3 weeks of each term. If you do not get into a class, do not panic. Plan to attend the first class and as spots shift, then try to get into the course.

One practical note: as graduate students, you do not pay by course, you pay either full or part time studies, that is why some students over-enroll, then drops..... just please don't forget to drop and check the system to make sure that the drop has gone through

and the course is not still appearing on your record (check about 2 weeks after you have submitted the form).

We wanted students to be able to enroll in courses and not have to wait if they were out of town, but we also want to make sure that you have a chance to ask all your questions, and get any information you may need to pursue your academic career.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. I can be reached at jhawley@yorku.ca, (due to covid restrictions, we are still working from home).

SPTH COURSE

SPTH 6104.6 Social & Political Thought: Theories (Core course, for PhD 1 students only)

Course Director: Andrea Davis—aadavis@yorku.ca, Kamala Kempadoo—kempadoo@yorku.ca, Brayton Polka—bpolka@yorku.ca, Brian Singer—bsinger@yorku.ca, and Nergis Canefe.

Teaching Format: In-Person Meets (SEMR)

This is the core course for SPTH PhD students. It is a required course, and is not open to any students other than SPTH PhD Year 1 students.

This course will examine some of the major theories, approaches, opportunities, and methods in Social and Political Thought with the aim of exposing students to a wide range of relevant material to their studies and careers. It will achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Familiarize students with a broad range of historical and contemporary theories within Social and Political Thought (e.g. Marxism, Post-Colonial Theory, Feminism, Continental Philosophy, etc.).
2. Familiarize students with a range of research methods appropriate to research in Social and Political Thought.
3. Familiarize students with a range of approaches to issues within Social and Political Thought, through a range of specialist guest speakers from the GTA.
4. Familiarize students with career and professional options for graduates of SPT.

The course will be graded on a pass/fail basis based on attendance and participation.

SPTH 6105.3 * Master's Practicum: MRP Development

Term: Winter

Course Director: Joan Steigerwald—steiger@yorku.ca

Format of Teaching: In-Person Meets (SEMR)

The course is an MRP writing workshop/practicum. It provides students with an opportunity to draft their proposal and their MRP in a collective environment. It also provides them a chance to work closely with their instructor in developing the design, methodology and theoretical approach of the MRP. Third, it gives students a chance for reflexive and dialogical space for students to interact and provide feedback on each other's projects. The course is compulsory for MA students in their first year and will be taught in Winter term. Reading materials will relate to the issues mentioned above.

SPTH 6001 Directed reading courses (3 or 6 credit)

For all directed reading course, students must submit the completed, signed directed reading form, and it must be reviewed and signed off on by the Graduate Program Director before a spot will be opened up for the student so they may enroll in the course. The Directed reading form is available on the main SPTH course [webpage](#).

The student may send the form to the faculty member teaching the course and the faculty member can agree and forward the email in place of a signature as long as all course details are included or attached.

Directed reading courses are only approved once the form has been completed, signed by both the student and the course director and approved by the Graduate Program Director. Incoming students are recommended to forego Directed Reading courses until Winter term.

SPTH 6033.3 The Politics of Identity

(Same as: POLS 6085 3.0)

Course Director: Gerald Kerneran

Term; Winter

Teaching Format: This course is or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

This course probes identity/difference, post identity, self and other, human and post human, public and personal, gender and post gender, masochist and sadist, east and west. The aim is to problematize both sides of the identity/difference divide, looking at the ways in which identity is consolidated through the constitution of difference and how difference, as a category and practice, in late modernity has been politicized and depoliticized as a site of resistance.

The course will examine how the politics of identity has simultaneously politicized and depoliticized the public and personal facilitating a potential for both radical democracy and neoconservatism in the public, and a possibility for extreme activism, passive indifference, radical indifference and engaged endeavor in the personal.

Key concepts include power, resentment, responsibility, representation, gender, race, ethnicity, community, citizenship, class, labor, mobilization, sovereignty, neoimperialism, neocolonialism, virtuality, performativity, indifference, and endeavor.

Three questions structure the course: what is left of the concept of citizenship in the political scape of identity and post identity politics, how can the public be reclaimed as a site of action, and how can living be a process of endeavor rather than excess and labor. The course ends by examining performance, specifically post human performance, as a site of endeavor.

SPTH 6039.3 Gramsci & Contemporary Political Theory

(Same as POLS 6045.3)

Term: W

Course Director: Esteve Morera, morera@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

Part I: The course will begin with a careful examination of the work of Antonio Gramsci. Two main purposes are to be achieved in this part of the course. The first is a clear understanding of Gramsci's contribution to political theory, in particular his theories of hegemony and civil society, his conception of the state, and his overall view of society as historical bloc. The second one is the analysis of the general assumptions that guided Gramsci's thinking in general. These occupations are the constitutive principles of his historicism, a concept that embodies a general theory of social explanation, a theory of history, and a general epistemology.

Part II: Gramsci's thought is often considered to be a radical critique of Marxism, one that does not reject Marx's original thought but seeks to revitalize and update it. Most of his original theories, however, have been of considerable influence among many

political thinkers, some of whom would not consider themselves Marxist. This broad appropriation of Gramsci's idea has led to a complex web of influences that has grown along with many of the contemporary positions within political theory. Thus, Gramsci's vocabulary can clearly be detected in works on feminism, postmodernism, the new political economy, and even in the work of some liberals and communitarians. Although the vocabulary is of Gramscian inspiration, the concepts and the theoretical assumptions behind them are often of a very different character. In the second part of the course some of these new treatments of the topic developed in the first part of the course will be carefully examined. The purpose is again twofold. First, an appreciation of some of the new conceptual frameworks (the specific topics can differ from year to year, a fact that may be identified by the subtitle following the colon) will be carefully examined and their differences from Gramsci's original though carefully noted. The second task will be to trace the differing philosophical assumptions and to confront them with Gramsci's. This comparison will no doubt result in a heightened appreciation of the complexity of political theory and a greater understanding of political analysis. Same as: POLS 6045.3.0

SPTH 6043.3 Contemporary Topics in Social Theory: *Theorizing the Digital*

(Same as SOCI 6200.3)

Instructor: Fuyuki Kurasawa

Term: Fall

This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

The course employs a sociological approach to theorize digital culture, its structural logics, and various phenomena resulting therefrom, including the socio-cultural effects of digitally-oriented technologies upon institutional dynamics and interactional patterns in contemporary societies. The course will analyze some of the key scientific and technological developments that undergird the digital age, such as 'Big Data', algorithms, and artificial intelligence, as well as the applications to which they are being put and the social assumptions that are built into them. The course considers how these technologies and developments take shape via social media and other digital platforms, and the socio-cultural impacts of these platforms. We study how these platforms participate in the formation and reproduction of socio-economic, political, and cultural inequalities—via algorithmic discrimination, biased artificial intelligence design, and a mode of surveillance capitalism—but also contribute to novel cultural discourses and political and symbolic practices.

SPTH 6043.3 Contemporary Topics in Social Theory *Postcolonial and Third World*

Feminisms

(Same as SOCI 6200.3)

Instructor: Sylvia Bawa

Term: Winter

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

Theories are not constructed in a vacuum. Theories speak to histories and emerge from particular if not peculiar realities (lived or observed). Postcolonial feminisms are, arguably, by and large both counter narrative and pioneering in knowledge production of the third world from the perspective of women and thus unintentionally become one of many voices for women in postcolonial societies. This course will provide a platform for exploring postcolonial and third world feminisms in their varied iterations. Mindful of the tenuous reception of feminism in the third world, the course aims to examine its contributions to understanding paradoxes in the postcolonial world and how these inform social justice activism for women's rights and empowerment. Postcolonial feminists, and theory, engage with issues of inequality at multiple levels; through historical analyses of colonialism and the international political economy and a critical engagement with local/national patriarchal oppressions. Thus, participants in the course will examine the ways in which postcolonial feminisms engage orthodox discourses on globalization, development and gender. Some themes to be explored are: tensions in the constructions of gender and identity in the postcolonial nation state; religious and cultural ideologies on gender inequality, global rights and women's individual rights discourses and culture in 'developing countries'.

SPTH 6070.3 Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School

Same as POLS 6070.3

Term: F

Course Director: Terry Maley, maley@yorku.ca

Course Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

The course will cover three themes key to the thought of the first generation of Frankfurt School Critical Theorists. The first is the notion of critique, the second is the idea of 'negative' thought, and the third is the utopian nature of philosophical, historical and political possibility. There are many overlapping contexts for reading the work of Adorno, Horkheimer and Marcuse. They are philosophical, historical, social, cultural - and political. All of these are inextricably intertwined, though in any given text or thinker some may seem more relevant than others. Critiques of western

philosophy/Reason/consciousness, of ideology, of modernity, of capitalism, of the modern state, of mass consumer culture, of aesthetics, of modern mass psychology, are all the work of Critical Theory. Through reading the key texts of the Frankfurt School thinkers, the course will focus on the ramifications of these intimately related critiques. We will ask, based on an exploration of their critiques of the western traditions of philosophical, social and political thought, whether it is possible to resuscitate a notion of the ‘whole’ or ‘totality’ from within modernity. Closely related to critique is the notion of political resistance. We will raise the complex question of the status of critique and resistance under historical circumstances where modern instrumental rationality seemed, to the Critical Theorists, to have become historically predominant in the advanced industrial societies of the global north in the mid-late twentieth century.

SPTH 6100A 6.00 Contexts Of Victorian Science

Same as Hist 5830.6 and Huma 6310.6

Term: Y

Course Director: B Lightman

Course Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

Contexts of Victorian Science. This course focuses on nineteenth century British and European science and its social, political, cultural, and intellectual contexts. Adopting the contextualist approach to the history of science allows us to raise a series of provocative questions: in what way did all of these different contexts shape the nature of nineteenth century scientific thought? How were scientific facts socially constructed? What was it about the nineteenth century context that led many intellectuals to reject Christianity and embrace science as providing a new, privileged form of knowledge? Included among the topics to be covered are the discourse of natural theology, the politics of geological controversy, Scottish philosophy and phrenology, radical working class Lamarckianism in England during the 1830s, the plurality of worlds debate, science and gender, the professionalization of science, English scientific naturalism and German scientific materialism, the literary structure of Darwin's Origin of Species, Darwinian theory and its ideological uses, and late nineteenth century physics and psychics. This course will be of interest to students of British, European, social, and intellectual history.

SPTH 6122.6 Modern Cultural History

(Same as HIST 5701.6)

Term: Fall and Winter (Y)

Course Director: Margaret E. Schotte mschotte@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

This course deals with themes in cultural history from the late nineteenth century to the present. Focusing on the interrelationships among ideas, culture, political, social, and economic change. While drawing on a wide body of readings in North American, British, and European history, it brings particular attention to bear upon the expression, social context, and impact of ideas and culture in the United States and Canada. It views culture not only as forms of artistic expression but as any value or trait which shapes society and, hence, infuses social and political ideas and trends. Weekly readings explore works in such areas as the cultural history of industrialism, imperialism, modernism, primitivism, antimodernist, social reform, social and behavioural science, the quantitative revolution, medicine, gender and sexuality, consumerism and advertising, mass culture, popular culture, and postmodernism.

SPTH 6135.3 * Black Radical Thought HOSTED BY SPTH

Term: Winter

Course Director: Kamala Kempadoo—kempadoo@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: Virtual Meets (REMT)

The aim of this seminar is to introduce students to 20th century revolutionary thought that was produced through black struggle against legacies of slavery, colonialism, and imperialism. It engages specifically with the ideas of C.L.R. James, Frantz Fanon, Claudia Jones, and Walter Rodney, all Caribbean descent, whose intellectual and political work has had international impact.

SPTH 6193.3 * Ethics and Alterity: Connecting Disparate Discourses in European Thought HOSTED BY SPTH

Term: Fall

Course Director: Avron Kulak—akulak@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: Virtual Meets (REMT)

This course explores six texts—Descartes' Discourse on Method, Kant's Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals, Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling, Nietzsche's The Gay Science, Shakespeare's Hamlet, and Kafka's The Trial—that are among the most debated (infamous, problematic, misunderstood...) in modern European religious thought, philosophy, and literature. The texts are explored to pose the question of whether an ethics of alterity is presupposed by, and thus allows readers to establish

the interconnections among, thinkers whose texts are often viewed as involving disparate, even opposed, discourses.

Central to the course, then, is the following problematic. Descartes develops his cogito, Kant his concept of reason (his grounding for morality), Kierkegaard his concept of faith (his suspension of ethics), Nietzsche his concept of atheism (involving the death of God), and Shakespeare and Kafka their literary responses to the problematic relationship between the individual and the universal by making central to their interpretive enterprises not only the inviolable singularity of both self and other but also the idea that the self has no existence outside the other—the idea that the self, in order to be itself, must, from the beginning, be other than itself. How, then, considering these shared commitments—commitments that connect ethics and alterity—are we to understand the apparent oppositions between faith and reason, between faith and atheism, between philosophy and literature, and between literature and religion—oppositions that beset so much of (post-)modern theory?

Overall, the course addresses itself to the question of whether a focus on the values that underpin religious, philosophical, and literary texts provides a basis for thinking about the interconnections - for working through the often-conflictual relationships—among diverse thinkers and disciplines in modern European thought.

SPTH 6220.3 Global Capital

(Same as POLS 6285.3)

Course Director: Jonathan Nitzan nitzan@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

What is capital? Despite centuries of debate, there is no clear answer to this question – and for a good reason. Capital is a polemic term. The way we define it attests our theoretical biases, ideological disposition, view of politics, class consciousness, social position, and more. Is capital the same as machines, or is it merely a financial asset? Is it a material article or a social process? Is it a static substance or a dynamic entity? The form of capital, its existence as monetary wealth, is hardly in doubt. The problem is with the content, the stuff that makes capital grow – and on this issue there is no agreement whatsoever. For example, does capital accumulate because it is productive, or due to the exploitation of workers? Does capital expand from within capitalism, or does it need non-capitalist institutions like the state and other ‘external’ forces? Is accumulation synonymous with economic growth, or can capital expand by damaging production and undermining efficiency? What exactly is being accumulated? Does the value of capital represent utility, abstract labour – or perhaps something totally different, such as power or force? What units should we use to measure its

accumulation? Surprisingly, these questions remain unanswered; in fact, with the victory of liberalism, most of them are no longer being asked. But the silence cannot last for long. As crisis and social strife intensify, the questions are bound to resurface. The accumulation of capital is the central process of capitalism, and unless we can clarify what that process means, we'll remain unable to understand our world, let alone change it. The seminar has two related goals: substantive and pedagogical. The substantive purpose is to tackle the question of capital head on. The course explores a spectrum of liberal and Marxist theories, ideologies and dogmas – as well as a radical alternative to these views. The argument is developed theoretically, historically and empirically. The first part of the seminar provides a critical overview of political economy, examining its historical emergence, triumph and eventual demise. The second part deals with the two ‘materialistic’ schools of capital – the liberal theory of utility and the Marxist theory of labour time – dissecting their structure, strengths and limitations. The third part brings power back in: it analyses the relation between accumulation and sabotage, studies the institutions of the corporation and the state and introduces a new framework – the capitalist mode of power. The final part offers an alternative approach – the theory of capital as power – and illustrates how this approach can shed light on conflict-ridden processes such as corporate merger, stagflation, imperialism and the new wars of the twenty-first century.

Pedagogically, the seminar seeks to prepare students toward conducting their own independent research. Students are introduced to various electronic data sources, instructed in different methods of analysis and tutored in developing their empirical research skills. As the seminar progresses, these skills are used both to assess various theories and to develop the students' own theoretical/empirical research projects.

SPTH 6230.3 Contemporary Cinema and Media Theory

(Same as FILM 6230.3)

Course Director: Mary Bunch, bunch@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

This course is intended as an in depth study of major theoretical schools and debates within contemporary film theory. The course is divided into three key units, each of which will focus on the historical development, methodological principles and philosophic underpinning of a specific school. This is a required course for all Critical and Historical Studies students.

SPTH 6271.3 Political Economy: Major texts

(Same as POLS 6271.3)

Term: W

Course Director: Greg Albo, albo@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

This course surveys the history of thought in political economy from Mercantalist thinkers to Keynes and the emergence of neoliberal economics. The course covers key texts by such thinkers as Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Thomas Malthus, Karl Marx, Rudolph Hilferding, V.I. Lenin, Leon Walras, Alfred Marshall, and J.M. Keynes. Particular attention is paid to issues having to do with methodology, the nature of the economic relations to other areas of social life, theories of value and distribution, conceptions of competition and equilibration, and theories of value and accumulation.

SPTH6291.3 The Politics of Intellectual Property

(Same as CMCT 6308.3)

Term: W

Course Director: Rosemary Coombs, rcoombe@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

Description not currently available.

SPTH 6305.3 Advanced Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Politics

(Same as POLS 6566.30)

Term: Fall

Course Director: Simone Bohn, sbohn@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

This course examines the impact of international economic integration and liberalization policies on Latin America and the Caribbean. The course focuses on the social impact of globalization and the responses that these changes call forth. Thus we consider the range of responses of the state to the challenges of internationalization. In addition we examine civil society organizing, including the rise of new political parties, unions, and grassroots organizations. In particular, we look at international labour migration and the transnationalism that results from the international flow of capital, commodities, individuals and whole communities. These phenomena are examined with respect to case studies of from the region that may differ from year to year.

SPTH 6319.3 Cinema and Media Studies: Key Concepts

(Same as FILM 7000.3 and CMCT 7125.3)

Term: Y (Fall and Winter)

Course Director: Sharon Hayashi, hayashi@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be offered through remote/online delivery for the Fall 2021 Term with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here. This course will meet in person for the Winter 2022 Term in the Location listed here.

The course will explore key concepts, texts and debates in the field of contemporary cinema and media studies. While maintaining a focus on the intellectual and material histories of cinema studies and media studies as disciplines (and their recent convergence), including epistemological and ontological frameworks, methodological approaches, and institutional and technological supports, the course will emphasize recent developments in cinema and media studies. Three broad areas of study will structure the course: cinema and cultural theory; national and transnational cinema; cinema and technologies of the image.

SPTH 6411.3 * Black Studies: Concepts and Contexts HOSTED BY SPTH

Term: Fall

Course Director: Kamala Kempadoo—kempadoo@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: In-Person Meets (SEMR)

The course is an overview of the fields "Black Studies." The focus of the course is, as much as possible, to provide both an international and historical view of these fields. Work discussed comes from various parts of the Black Diaspora (e.g. Canada, the Caribbean, United States, Europe), and could include selections from work done in Africa. The course draws on the interdisciplinary heritage in these fields, ranging broadly from fields as disparate as literature, film, philosophy, sociology and history.

SPTH 6412.3 Imaging Slavery and Freedom HOSTED BY SPTH

Same as Huma 6167.3

Term: Fall

Course Director: Christina Sharpe, cesharpe@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course will be delivered remotely/online with synchronous class sessions: the delivery will be on the Day(s) and Start Time listed here.

This course engages a critical examination of Transatlantic slavery and its afterlife, and the ways in which the imagination functions in the articulation of a desired, but always elusive, Black freedom.

SPTH 6632.2 Thinking Power and Violence: From Nietzsche to Agamben

(Same as POLS 6086.3)

Term: W

Course Director: Robert Latham, rلatham1@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

In the twentieth century there have been numerous attempts to think seriously about the meaning of power and violence as fundamental categories of human existence. The objective of 'Thinking Power and Violence' is to develop an appreciation of the elusive multidimensionality of violence as a phenomenon.

'Thinking Power and Violence' is concerned with violence in many forms and manifestations: violence at the foundation of human community, conservative violence, divine violence, ecstatic violence, sacrificial violence, redemptive violence, self as violence against self and other, exclusionary violence, the violence of liberal freedom and the commodity, counter-hegemonic violence, the violence of the spectacle, the violence of outsiders and gender violence.

SPTH 6665.3 Theorizing Modernity and Problems of Postcolonial Theorizations

Term: W

Course Director: Radhika Mongia, rmongia@yorku.ca

The course focuses on exploring different ways in which the concept of modernity has been understood and how various approaches to postcoloniality relates to them.

Notions of "modernity" and postcolonialism are explored in historical, sociological and cultural terms in their diversity of formulation and application. Issues of epistemology and the notion of "theorizing" are subjected to a historical materialist critique involving a critique of ideology.

Winter 2022 Course Description:

Modernity is a contested term, in spatial, temporal, conceptual, and empirical registers. Debates about what it signifies (e.g., the emergence of the individual, the process of secularization, increasing urbanization, the ascendancy of capitalism, the formations of democracy, the idea of progress and developmentalism, etc.), about how to periodize it (when does modernity occur), about how to locate it (where do find modernity), and about how to understand the relations between the different temporal and spatial categories it posits have occupied scholars across the disciplinary spectrum of the humanities and social sciences. Over the last three decades, debates assessing the place of slavery, colonialism, and Eurocentrism in theorizations of modernity have been particularly intense in postcolonial studies (broadly conceived).

This course focuses on these debates and critically explores the possibilities and limits of different postcolonial theorizations of modernity. In particular, it traverses literature on three major aspects of these debates: (1) critical literature on the modernity/tradition dyad; (2) the notion of alternative modernities and, closely related, of multiple modernities; and (3) more socio-historically grounded arguments for the spatio-temporal coproduction of zones of modernity and of tradition.

SPTH 6674.3 Diasporas: Transnational Communities and Limits of Citizenship

(Same as POLS 6525.3)

Term: W

Course Director: Ethel Tungohan, tungohan@yorku.ca

Course Format: n/a

This course provides a comparative inquiry about the nature of transnational communal, religious, and political identities at the age of late capitalism. It puts emphasis on critical approaches to diasporas, their variant constructions of homeland and home, and their marked effects on the politics of the post-Westphalian state and international relations. Topics of analysis include trends of international migration vis-à-vis the reformulation of the modern capitalist polity, involvement of diasporas across borders leading to the emergence of new forms of political action, the effects of settled migrant populations in changing the rhetoric of nationalism, belonging, and justice at home as well as in their host countries, dynamics of transnationalism and its various embodiments such as transnational religious and political movements organized and led by diasporas, and, reformulations of the citizenship contract in Western states as a result of the troubled interaction between the society at large and diasporas who, more often than not, constitute ethno-religious and linguistic minorities. Course readings give the students a chance to examine the endemic nature of racism, discrimination and xenophobia in capitalist societies and the modern state, as well as providing openings about how structural and remedial change can be possible.

SPTH 6683.3.0 Topics in Biopolitic

(same as Soci 6819)

Term: Winter

Teaching Format: This course or a portion of this course will meet in person in the location assigned.

Course Director: Lorna Weir, lweir@yorku.ca

This course provides an introduction to the contested concept of ‘biopolitics’ and to

what might be called a biopolitical research tradition that was inspired by Foucault's work. To these existing literatures we will add the theme sacrifice, exploring what place the social logic of sacrifice plays in contemporary biopolitics.

SPTH 6695.3 * Settler Colonialism and Settler Subjects HOSTED BY SPTH

Term: Fall

Course Director: Mona Oikawa, oikawa@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: In-Person Meets (SEMR)

The course is an overview of the fields "Black Studies." The focus of the course is, as much as possible, to provide both an international and historical view of these fields. Work discussed comes from various parts of the Black Diaspora (e.g. Canada, the Caribbean, United States, Europe), and could include selections from work done in Africa. The course draws on the interdisciplinary heritage in these fields, ranging broadly from fields as disperse as literature, film, philosophy, sociology and history.

SPTH 6722.3 * Reading the Anthropocene: Excavations in the Humanities and Social Sciences HOSTED BY SPTH

Term: POSTPONED UNTIL SUMMER 2022

Course Director: Jody Berland—jberland@yorku.ca

Teaching Format: In-Person Meets (SEMR)

In the few short decades since geologists and climatologists postulated the rise of a new, human-generated era, the concept of the Anthropocene has challenged and altered many avenues of human thought and expression. From physical sciences to the humanities, from history and political economy to postcolonial theory, from aesthetics to the ethics of evolutionary biology, all are increasingly entangled with one another and with new modes of inquiry. This course studies the Anthropocene as a discursive event drawing on the theoretical and methodological resources of critical environmental humanities. It thus probes the troubled interdependent agency of discourse and climate-induced planetary change. The study of the human at the center of the humanities, the ideals of rational or democratic discourse, and the geopolitics of crisis are at the forefront of this critical endeavor.

We "read" the Anthropocene as a multi-agential discursive event involving powerful affective shifts in our experience of the natural world, a powerful but contested nominal reference to the human species, a latent but unsuccessful totalization of world environmental politics and experiences, and the reluctant evocation of a climate of emergency in which human agency is simultaneously commanded and reviled. Through course readings, discussions, presentations, and assignments, the course examines the Anthropocene's problematic discursive force in relation to the

geopolitical and affective constitution of risk and the emergence of social movements informed by a variety of social impulses and resources.

*Please check regularly for updates and changes.